

November 17, 1998

For more information, contact:

Bob Rowe - 406-444-6167

ROWE ELECTED 1<sup>ST</sup> VICE PRESIDENT OF  
NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REGULATORY UTILITY COMMISSIONERS

Montana Public Service Commissioner Bob Rowe has been elected First Vice President of the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners. NARUC is the association of state utility regulators which represents and serves public service commissions in the states and territories, as well as federal agencies and public utility regulators from other countries.

Rowe has been an active member of NARUC and will continue to serve for another year as chairman of the NARUC Telecommunications Committee.

"It is exciting to help make NARUC an effective voice for state public service commissions and for utility customers," Rowe said. "As a NARUC officer, I hope to emphasize effective representation of state interests in national policy discussions, and also strong support, especially through education and analysis, of state commission efforts to serve their citizens."

As chairman of the Telecommunications Committee, Rowe is one of the leaders among state commissioners implementing the federal Telecommunications Act of 1996.

"It is especially valuable, coming from a rural western state, to help maintain the balance between rural and urban concerns as telecommunications policies are developed and implemented," according to Rowe.

In addition to working closely with federal agencies and Congress, Rowe emphasizes developing policies and producing products which allow state commissions to better serve their citizens. For example, in the last several months, the Telecommunications Committee has produced detailed reports on consumer information requirements in telecommunications, on telecommunications service quality, and on requirements for Bell Operating Company entry into long-distance service under the Telecommunications Act. Last week, Rowe announced the beginning of a "best practices" project to solicit and distribute successful telecommunications practices which might be implemented by either regulatory agencies or telecommunications firms.

###